

- Q: And that they revealed that there may have been, may have been, either a corrupted administrative decision or, at the very least, an administrative process that though not corrupted had been touched to some degree by political interest or influence; is that correct?
- A: Absolutely. I mean, my life has been changed by this indelibly, and I was embarrassed at the institutional damage as well. Sure.
- Q: Okay. And this embarrassment was compounded by the fact, was it not, that these remarks to Mr. Eckstein had become, as I said earlier, the centerpiece in the losing tribe's federal law suit against the Department of Interior, a law suit that alleged that the Hudson casino decisionmaking had been politically corrupted and asked that the decision be overturned; is that correct?
- A: Yes, but in terms of my view of this, the law suit, the effects of a law suit, of a civil suit, are the least. I mean, the real damage to the image of the Interior Department, the image of government, the administration and, least of all, to me.
- Q: Yes. But the law suit may have contributed to the damaged image?
- A: Yeah. I don't think it was the major issue, but yeah, it did, sure.
- Q: And it's the same embarrassment, was it not, that caused you to sign off on the admittedly misleading letter to Senator McCain a year earlier? Am I correct? So that when you signed the letter to Senator McCain in 1996 you were hoping that your response would make the whole issue go away? Is that a fair statement?
- A: I'm hesitating on that because, as I testified earlier, I think a more accurate rendition of that letter was I really focused on the Ickes thing, on the underlying thing, and I'm not going to quarrel with you on that. I think that's a fair conclusion, but I'm not sure it's what was principally on my mind. That's all.
- Q: Well, wouldn't it be an honest statement, though, that it was in part in your mind, that you were hoping by being as succinct –
- A: Oblique.
- Q: – and oblique that you, by not addressing the whole conversation you had with Mr. Eckstein, that maybe Senator McCain would not pursue this any further and it would all go away?